

REMARKS

Reconsideration of this application, as amended, is respectfully requested.

Claims 1-22 are pending. Claims 1-5 and 18-22 stand rejected. Claim 18 has been objected to.

Claim 18 has been amended. Claims 6-17 and 22 have been cancelled. Support for the amendments is found in the specification, the drawings, and in the claims as originally filed. Applicants submit that the amendments do not add new matter.

Drawings

Applicants have enclosed a copy of the substitute drawings that were filed with the Response to Missing Parts on April 29, 2002. Form PTO-948 detailing the Examiner's objections was not attached with the Office Action. Please contact the undersigned if these drawings do not overcome the Examiner's objections.

Claim Objections

Claim 18 has been amended to overcome the Examiner's objection.

Rejections Under 35 U.S.C. § 102(e)

Claims 18-21 stand rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 102(e) as being anticipated by U.S. Patent No.6,239,385 , of Schwiebert, et al. ("Schwiebert"). Claims 18-21 stand rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 102(e) as being anticipated by U.S. Patent No.6,229,327 , of Boll, et al. ("Boll").

Applicants respectfully submit that amended claim 18 is not anticipated by Schwiebert or Boll. Amended claim 18 includes the following limitations.

A coaxial adapter comprising:

an internally tapered ground sleeve having a first ground sleeve end adapted to contact a ground lead of a coaxial cable and a second ground sleeve end adapted to contact a ground probe of a test probe, the ground sleeve being characterized by a radius

r_o measured from the center of the ground sleeve to the inner surface of the ground sleeve;

an externally tapered signal pin positioned inside of and spaced apart from the ground sleeve, the signal pin having a first signal pin end adapted to contact a signal lead of a coaxial cable and a second signal pin end adapted to contact a signal probe of a test probe, the signal pin being characterized by a radius r_i measured from the center of the signal pin to an outer surface of the signal pin, and the signal pin and ground sleeve having a relative magnetic permeability μ ; and

a dielectric material interposed between at least part of the signal pin and at least part of the ground sleeve, the dielectric material having a relative permittivity ϵ ;

wherein the ratio r_o/r_i is maintained constant over a length of said coaxial adapter and r_o , μ , r_i , and ϵ are selected such that an impedance Z_o of the adapter matches an impedance of the test probe according to the following formula:

$$Z_o = \frac{\ln(r_o/r_i)\sqrt{\mu/\epsilon}}{2\pi}$$

(Amended claim 18) (emphasis added)

Applicants have amended claim 18 to include the limitations of a tapered ground sleeve and a tapered signal pin, the ratio of which is maintained constant over the length of the coaxial adapter. Neither Schwiebert nor Boll disclose this limitation as stated by the Examiner.

For these reasons, applicants respectfully submit that claim 18 is not anticipated by Schwiebert or Boll. Given that claims 19 – 21 depend, directly or indirectly, from claim 18, applicants respectfully submit that claims 19 – 21 are likewise not anticipated by Schwiebert or Boll.

Rejections Under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a)

Claims 1-5 and 22 stand rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 103 as being unpatentable over U.S. Patent No. 6,229,327 of Boll, et al. (“Boll”) in view of U.S. Patent No. 6,239,385 of Schwiebert, et al. (“Schwiebert”).

Applicants respectfully submit, however, that claims 1 and 18, as well as their dependent claims, are not obvious under 35 U.S.C. § 103 in view of Boll and Schwiebert.

Applicants respectfully submit that Boll is not disclosing a coaxial adapter for a probe, but the probe itself. While components of the probe described in Boll may coincide with components of the coaxial adapter, as claimed, the probe and the adapter cannot be equated. The

coaxial adapter, as claimed, includes "a second ground sleeve end adapted to contact a ground probe of a test probe." The probe of Boll does not include this limitation and cannot include this limitation as it is itself a probe. The coaxial adapter, as claimed, also includes "a second signal pin end adapted to contact a signal probe of a test probe." Again, the probe of Boll cannot include such a limitation.

Applicants respectfully request the Examiner to reconsider the use of Boll alone or in the proffered combination with Schwiebert.

It is respectfully submitted that in view of the amendments and arguments set forth herein, the applicable rejections and objections have been overcome. If there are any additional charges, please charge Deposit Account No. 02-2666 for any fee deficiency that may be due.

Respectfully submitted,

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